

August Happenings

Aug. 9 — Picnic p6

Aug. 11-17 — Nat'l.
T.T.O.S. Convention
Sacramento, CA p5

VOL. 26
NO. 2

MAR/APR
2008

LARRY PEARSON
PRESIDENT

CALVIN SMITH
EDITOR

HERB MAYER
PHOTOGRAPHER

THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED



In Memoriam: Mervyn Lew 1928-2008

Very early T.T.O.S. Member (#196) Mervyn Lew passed away on Wednesday, February 6th, just one day before Merrill Silverstein (#709) passed away (as reported by Roy Bell in the January/February 2008 issue). He was 79 years old. Mervyn had been in declining health over the last couple of years, and passed away in his home of an apparent heart attack or stroke, as reported by his nephew, Ron Tom. Mervyn was Southwestern's faithful photographer at our monthly meets and at Cal-Stewart for many years, and, despite his recent difficulty walking, was taking pictures for *The Southwestern Limited* right up to the time he died. He recently made the transition from film to digital photography. Our Board decided to honor his memory by naming the Cal-Stewart Grand Raffle the Mervyn Lew Memorial Raffle. He always took the pictures of the raffle winners, both at Cal-Stewart and at the monthly Meets. Several members of his family have made cash donations in his memory to Southwestern, and we are looking for an appropriate way to spend this money. Ron Tom wrote the following sketch of

continued on page 2

In Memoriam: William H. Stearns III T.T.O.S. # 666

A Tribute to "Wild Bill"

It was quite a shock to hear of the sudden and tragic demise of Bill Stearns back on April 3rd of this year from a horrific traffic accident. We had just received word of this on Thursday, April 29th from Southwestern layout team director Al Vierich, then learned later that Bill's SUV ran off the road and crashed into a tree which, as per an official report, must have killed him almost instantly even after the steering wheel air bag had activated at the impact.



Photo by Mervyn Lew

As long time former and current members of both TCA Western and TTOS Southwestern and Southern Pacific, we have known Bill longer than about 95% of anyone that's still an active member of both clubs. To us, and no doubt a good number of others, Bill was one of the Club's most unique members, both in appearance and character. We remember him back when TCA Western met on Friday evenings at Bateman Hall in Lynwood, southeast of downtown L.A., and at SWD Friday evening meets at the Arcadia Masonic Hall before the S.P. Division was formed, when he would stroll about, wearing his slightly flopped trainman's cap and hawking raffle tickets. And may we add that he was quite brilliant, too, as he would almost always win the top raffle prizes whether or not he was one of the ticket sellers. And he definitely knew how to work the auctioning from the buyer's end. When items would go upon the block, and when bidders would try, as anyone basically would, to "low ball," Bill would hit it right off the bat by bidding what the item would generally be worth as if it was still on the dealer's table. By the time anyone would perhaps come to the notion of what the item would actually cost, Bill would already have purchased it.

Another characteristic about him was when he ordered breakfast at the Arcadia Hall before the start of a Sunday Southwestern meet. He would have his eggs scrambled into the hash

continued on page 2



Mervyn was posed by Ward Kimball for the cover of the February, 1984 issue of *The TTOS Bulletin* trying to "heal" a Lionel 408 locomotive by a version of acupuncture for trains, which Ward named "Track-puncture". Us mortals repair trains the old fashioned way, with hand tools. (photo courtesy of Dave Otth T.T.O.S. #257L)

RENEW YOUR SWD DUES NOW!!! LIVE STEAMERS PICNIC AUG. 9, 2008!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR MARCH/APRIL, 2008

LARRY PEARSON, President

Southwestern Division, 2008-2009

1108 West Palm Ave., Burbank, CA 91506

(818) 848-2653



This issue and the January/February issue of *The Southwestern Limited* did not get lost in the mail! It got lost on my desk. It is now June, 2008, and Calvin & Phyllis Smith, the Editors, have been beating on me steadily to get something written. This is an abbreviated message to get caught up.

2007 Cal-Stewart Lifesavers Souvenir Car

The 2007 Cal-Stewart LIFESAVERS® Tank Car is on schedule for delivery sometime in August, 2008. As stated on the order form, we took orders through the end of January, 2008, and then we placed our order with Lionel in early February based on the actual number of cars ordered, plus a few extra for loss and breakage. The manufacturing process at Lionel normally takes about six months from the time that the order is placed. We have received and approved the first article manufactured parts for both cars, and they are in production as you read this. All cars will be shipped as we direct from Global Fulfillment in Seattle, Washington. Seattle is the new port of entry for Lionel, and we receive them FOB at that location, rather than Detroit, Michigan, as was the case in the past. Please notify Bruce Lazarus at his address on the order form if you have a change of address. Call me at the above phone number if you have further questions. Please do not call the TTOS National Office with your questions, because this is not a project that they are involved with.

— Larry Pearson, President

In Memoriam: Bill Stearns (continued from page 1)

browns. Perhaps nothing really new in culinary, but I (Larry) called it a "Bill Stearns." From there, when I mentioned my order to the cook, he or she knew exactly what I wanted.

Bill definitely knew trains, especially "S", "O" and large scale. He knew what the items were worth along with what was original and what wasn't, the newest as well as the older stuff. At one of the meetings, Larry Pearson brought a Lionel locomotive to him that wasn't working properly. He took it, looked it over as if he was trying to juggle it, then pointed out the problem immediately — and showed Larry how to get it corrected.

Last but not least, he was also quite a giving person—at least to us anyway. Furthermore, it was learned a long time ago that he was a descendant of the Stearns family from Long Beach where he lived. They, we believe, were pioneer developers from which Stearns Avenue, near the Cal State University campus on the city's east side, was named after.

We will miss you, Bill, now having joined, in an untimely manner, the other train club greats in that eternal meeting hall beyond. Rest easy, ol' buddy.

Larry and Phylis Kirk
former Division Secretaries

In Memoriam: Mervyn Lew (continued from page 1)

Mervyn's life:

"Mervyn (Merv) Lew was born in Los Angeles on June 2, 1928 to Look Shee and Quon Seik Lew. He is survived by his brother, Clinton (Hawn) Lew, sister-in-law Anna Lew, and brother-in-law Thomas Yip and nephews and nieces Ron Tom, Dennis Lew, Garrick Lew, Cheryl Lew, Sandra Yip, Donna Dohi, John Lew, Jeffery Lew, Gale Lew, Jody Gray, and Eric Lew.

"Merv attended Manual Arts High School and graduated in 1946. He proudly served in the Army as a photojournalist during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1956. He went on to attend USC and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Cinema in 1958. He began his career at the photo studio of George De Gennaro, but his true love was sports photography, so he went to work at USC as a sports photographer. After many years at USC, he worked for the photo department of Hughes Aircraft, where, after 11 years, he retired in 1989.

"He was an avid collector of model trains, especially Lionel, and model airplanes. He was the official photographer for the Toy Train Operating Society-Southwestern Division, a member of the Train Collectors Association, and a member of TTOS-Southern Pacific Division. He looked forward to going to the monthly meetings. He loved all memorabilia related to railroad trains, especially steam locomotives, and W.W. II fighter airplanes.

"Photography was his life. Whenever there was a special event he was there with his camera ready to capture the moment for family, friends, and his train and airplane pals."

Southwestern Division members and friends will miss Mervyn Lew.

Larry Pearson and Ron Tom

TOY TRAIN MEET

Southern Pacific Division Invites you
to our Monthly Train Meets

Meet Dates 2008

Jan. 27*	Feb. 24*
Mar. 30	Apr. 27
May 25**	June 22
July 22	Aug. 24
Sept. 28	Oct. 26***
Nov. 23	Dec. 21

* Meets at Holiday Inn Buena Park
** Open House Meet
*** Meet in Perris

**Many Trains for Sale,
Super Auction, Great Raffle,
Operating Layout
& Snack Bar**

All Aboard To Anaheim!

Public Invited 12:30 to 3:30—Admission: \$3—\$5 Family

For information visit our website: www.ttos-sp.com 2271 W. Crescent - Anaheim, CA
Or call Brian Fields, our President at (714) 821-9968

Wanted

American Flyer Trains • Dinkys
Corgi • Tootsietoy • Matchbox

Would buy one to whole collection

Robert Langton
Cell: 626-241-7686 • 626-799-3723

The Cars Are Coming!



We have received word that the O-Gauge and S-Gauge LifeSavers® Cars are on their way! We anticipate shipment to all who ordered cars sometime in August 2008.

Get Your Engines Ready for the Train Races and Demolition Derby at Cal-Stewart 2008

Classes for Train Races

- 1) Stock (Non-modified)
 - A. Steam with brush type motors
 - B. Steam with can type motors
 - C. Diesel with single brush type motor
 - D. Diesel with dual brush type motor
 - E. Diesel with single can motor
 - F. Diesel with dual can motor
 - G. Pre-War Electric
- 2) Modified:
 - A. Modified steam with brush motor
 - B. Modified steam with can motor
 - C. Modified diesel single motor
 - D. Modified diesel dual motor
- 3) Unlimited Modified (Must be electric powered by track power)

Demo Derby

1. Plastic vs Plastic
2. Die Cast vs Die Cast

The Train Races and Demolition Derby are scheduled for Sunday only at Cal-Stewart 2007. Volunteers are needed to help. Please contact **Jon Pincus**, Chairman, 818-889-1005.

“Toy Articulated Passenger Streamliners
from the 1930s”
is the
Theme for the special
2008 Cal-Stewart
Ralph Johnson Memorial Display

Contact Hollis Cotton
for more information

818-781-4910

Southwestern Division Coming Events

August 9 — Picnic—See details on page 6
Meets Sundays 2008: Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Dec. 7
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd. 91007
Sellers & Members 10:30 a.m. — Free Parking
Cal-Stewart: Nov. 21-23 — see page 7

The April 2008 Meet



Mike Jenkins



Ramon Garcia



Don Gatz



Tony Deneve



Robert Cesarone



Mystery Winner



March Open House Public Winner Coshier Miller & Son

Top: The Trading Hall in April 2008

Mid: Engines on layouts

The April Drawing Winners with the Public Winner from the March Open House meet

All photos by Herb Mayer and used with permission

Sacramento, California August 11-17, 2008



Be sure to sign up for the following activities

Monday, Aug. 11 – Skunk Train Tour

Tuesday, Aug. 12 – Western RR Museum, Jelly Belly Factory, Tractor & Truck Museum

Tuesday Aug. 12 – Sacramento River Dinner Train

Wednesday Aug. 13 - Grass Valley Layout Tours

Thursday Aug. 14 - Sierra Railroad Tour

Thursday Aug. 14 – Welcome Party and Silent Auction

Friday Aug. 15 – Home Layout Tours

Saturday Aug. 16 – The Banquet

Trading Hall Open Aug. 15-Aug 17; Open to Public Aug 17

DO NOT miss any of the fun and fellowship sign up today!

Pre-Register on or before July 31st with the National Office

See the Bulletin for details or call 626-574-7453

Visit the Website: www.ttos.org

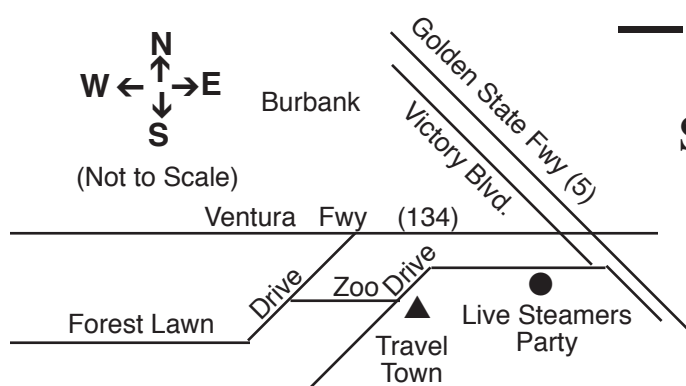
Or Register in Person at the Convention

Come to the Southwestern Division Summer Member Appreciation Party at the Live Steamers in Griffith Park

**Trains Running for Viewing & Riding
Plus Operating G-Gauge Layout
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with all the
Trimmings, Chips, Sodas, etc.**



**For Dues Paid SWD Members & Family and specially invited guests!
Children must be supervised at all times!**



Take 134 Freeway between I-5 and Hollywood Freeways. Westbound Exit Forest Lawn Drive. Eastbound Exit Forest Lawn Drive. Go East on Zoo Drive (left turn) past Travel Town to the Live Steamers (Live Steamers are east of Travel Town). Parking & Entrance at East end of Live Steamers Complex.

—Reservations Required—

by August 4, 2008

So we can order sufficient food!

Saturday, August 9, 2008

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Food Service stops at 1:30 p.m.

\$5.00 per person

Children under 12 are free

**Griffith Park Live Steamers
(on Zoo Drive, east of Travel Town)
Free Parking in lot at east end of Live Steamers**

Please Note: No train sales at this social -- Park prohibits sales

RESERVATION FORM--Live Steamers SWD Social--Reservations by Aug. 4, 2008

Name _____	TTOS # _____
_____ No. of Adults & Children 12 & Over @ \$5.00 each	\$ _____
_____ No. of Children Under 12 Free	\$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____	

Make your check payable to TTOS SWD and mail with your completed reservation form to:

Jim Pelling, 944 Pine Grove Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90042

Your tickets will be held at the gate. For answers to questions, please call Larry Pearson at (818) 848-2653.

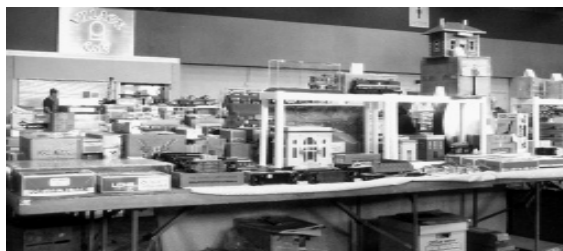
Join Us for the 35th Cal-Stewart Meet—3 Days of Toy Train Excitement

*We've Moved
500 ft. East!*

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 21, 22, 23, 2008
Pasadena Convention Center East Pavilion and
Conference Center at the corner of Green & Euclid
300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101



LARGEST Toy Train Club-Sponsored Meet West of the Mississippi 40,000+ sq.ft.
450+ Table Sales Saturday and Sunday featuring trains pre-1900 to present
including Standard, LGB, O, Lionel, Marx, American Flyer, MTH, HO, etc.

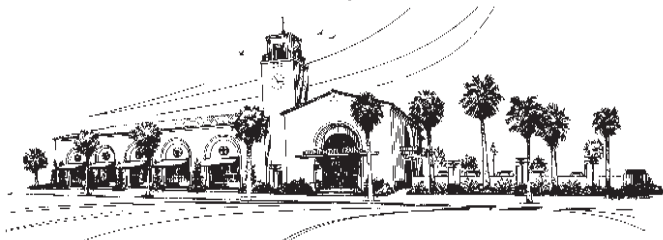


King Welcoming Cocktail & Dinner Party
Articulated Passenger Trains Display
Parts – Auctions – Raffles
Train Races and Demolition Derby
Operating Layouts – Manufacturers Displays
Boy Scouts RR Merit Badge – Marx Show & Tell
Contact: Bruce Lazarus (818) 225-1710
or visit www.cal-stewart.org or ttos-sw.org

TRAIN COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

Having been a member of TTOS Southwest since 1970, many of you know me, and the reputation of my store and my auctions. Should you get serious about selling your collection, please give me a call. I will buy your entire collection, and you will receive a fair price for each and every piece. Or, if you prefer, I will sell your collection at auction.

ALLEN DRUCKER, T.T.O.S. No. 277



ALLEN DRUCKER

510 El Modena Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92663

310-850-5676

Email: ALLIEDTRN@aol.com

01/07-12/07

Welcome New & Renewing Members

Glen Alley, Kenneth Beam, Robert M. Caplan,
Albert J. Vargas, Jacob Burns, Gary Gearhart,
Bruce W. Gripkey, Glynn Martin,
Thomas E. Mercher, Charles A. Schneider,
Mike Silveria, Robert D. Sims, Charles Licha,
Ron Hall, Butch Alvarado,
Ron Tom

THE TRAIN STOP

211 West Bonita • San Dimas, CA 91773

Exclusively Model Railroading

Sales - Service

Operating layouts - "G" / "O" / "HO" / "N" Gauge

TUES. THRU SAT. 10 - 5
SUNDAY & MONDAY CLOSED

PAUL & SUSAN KIRBY
www.trainstop.com

(909) 599-2602
Fax (909) 599-1566

01/08-12/08

COME VISIT
The Train Shack

Service — Buy — Sell — Trade

One of the Largest Selection of Model
trains in Southern California
MTH, LIONEL, WEAVER, K-LINE, THIRD RAIL
ATLAS, LGB, MARKLIN, KATO, ATHEARN
ROUNDHOUSE, WALTHERS, THOMAS THE TANK & BRIO

Large Selection of
G, O, HO, N, & Z Scales
Paints, Tools, Books, Videos, Audios, Scenery
Collectibles, Old & New

Collections bought
Custom Layouts built

AUTHORIZED FACTORY SERVICE
for LGB, Lionel, MTH, & Marklin

The Train Shack, Inc.



1030 North Hollywood Way
Burbank, California 91505
(818) 842-3330
Outside (818), call (800) 572-9929
FAX (818) 842-4562
www.trainshack.com

01/07-12/07

TOY TRAIN OPERATING SOCIETY
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION #1
A Non-Profit Corporation
Larry Pearson, President
1108 West Palm Ave.
Burbank, CA 91506-2022
(818) 848-2653
Hot Line (818) 702-9588
www.cal-stewart.org
www.ttos-sw.org

TIME DATED MATERIALS

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PASADENA, CA
PERMIT NO. 648

PRINTED MATTER

The *Southwestern Limited* is the official publication of the Southwestern Division of the Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) and is published bi-monthly. To contribute articles, photographs and letters, mail to: Calvin Smith, Editor, 25 So. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105-1905, (626) 792-6594. Materials must be received by the first day of the month preceding publication. Original materials will be returned to the sender when return postage is enclosed. Thank you.



SPEER

PAUL W. SPEER, INC.
General Contractors

7141 VALJEAN AVENUE VAN NUYS, CA 91406
Telephone: (818) 781-4910 Facsimile: (818) 781-8690
speer@speerconstruction.com

Contact Hollis Cotton, T.T.O.S. No. 5356 for Your Construction Needs